

# Did you know Arlington had a casino?

Ellen Timberlake-Volz, Tarrant County Historical Commission, invites you to visit ...



## **ARLINGTON: CRUISING BACK IN TIME**

*Top O' Hill Terrace Celebrates the  
Bankhead Highway Centennial*

**Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Top O' Hill Terrace Museum  
Arlington Baptist College  
3001 W. Division Street, Arlington, Texas**

Cruise back in time as we revisit history! See vintage automobiles, tour the historic grounds, see artifacts not often on display, visit the secret escape tunnel and hear about Top O' Hill Terrace casino's gangster-related past as well as the amazing tale of its transformation into a seminary. The Tea Garden once hosted elegant parties for the rich, the famous and the infamous—enjoy light refreshments there and be entertained by *Dance Theatre of Arlington*, *Standing Room Only* and “*My Way*” actors from *Theatre Arlington*, the *Adlee H. Trezevant Memorial Choir* from historic I.M. Terrell High School, and the musical group *Just Jazz*.

Hear stories from local historians and authors about Tarrant County's colorful past:

- 12:30 pm**     **Jim Gatewood**  
“Gangsters, Gamblers & Oil Men at Top O’ Hill Terrace”
- 1:15 pm**     **Dr. Weldon Cannon**  
“Bedford Reunion: Finding the Way Home”
- 2:00 pm**     **Dr. Rick Selcer**  
“Fighting Sin from the Pulpit:  
The Ministers vs. the Vice Kings in Tarrant County”
- 2:45 pm**     **Brad Patterson**  
“The Bankhead Highway in Texas”
- 3:30 pm**     **Drew Sanders**  
“The Garden of Eden:  
The Story of a Freedmen’s Community in Texas”
- 4:15 pm**     **Public Service Seminar**  
“Refuse to Be a Victim”

- 5:00 pm**      **O.K. Carter**  
“Sometimes Lucky, Sometimes Smart—But Always in the  
Metroplex Middle: Tipping Points for Arlington”
- 5:45 pm**      **Martha May Martin & Geraldine Mills**  
“Arlington Downs & the W.T. Waggoner Legacy”

Guests are invited to participate in the Historical Character Costume Contest (3:30 pm) and possibly win a prize! Visitors will also be able to purchase books, videos and other Top O' Hill Terrace and Bankhead Highway memorabilia as well as several offerings from our guest speakers and noted historians.

The Bankhead Highway was the first transcontinental highway, begun in 1916 and completed in 1922. It follows 850 miles of highway through Texas and follows Arlington's Division Street. Top O' Hill Terrace was a key destination along the Bankhead Highway in its heyday, operating as an illegal casino and nightclub. A secret place that thrived during prohibition it was a favorite target of firebrand preacher Reverend J. Frank Norris who built a reputation by accompanying law enforcement on surprise raids.

During these raids, gamblers were warned from the gatehouse and would rush from the casino through a secret tunnel while gaming equipment was swept away into hidden compartments in the walls. Upon arriving on the scene, deputies were greeted by the sight of ladies and gentlemen attending a genteel event in the Tea Garden with no sign of illegal activity. One final raid shuttered the place in 1947.

Rev. Norris died in 1952, and in an ironic twist of fate, the institution he founded that is known today as Arlington Baptist College acquired the foreclosed property in 1956 and relocated from Fort Worth.

Tickets are \$25 and all proceeds benefit structural repairs at the historic location. To purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/top-o-hill-terrace-museum-6031920937>

For more information about Top O' Hill Terrace, visit  
[www.TopOHillTerrace.com](http://www.TopOHillTerrace.com)

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Our mailing address is:  
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